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International application number: PCT/US04/042503

International filing date: 17 December 2004 (17.12.2004)

Document type: Certified copy of priority document

Document details: Country/Office: US
Number: 60/531,336
Filing date: 19 December 2003 (19.12.2003)

Date of receipt at the International Bureau: 24 January 2005 (24.01.2005)

Remark: Priority document submitted or transmitted to the International Bureau in compliance with Rule 17.1(a) or (b)



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APPLICATION NUMBER: 60/531,336

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PROVISIONAL APPLICATION FOR PATENT COVER SHEET

This is a request for filing a PROVISIONAL APPLICATION under 37 CFR 1.53(c).

Docket Number		PP/4497-2		Type a plus sign (+) inside this box ->	+
INVENTOR(s)/APPLICANT(s)					
LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	MIDDLE INITIAL	RESIDENCE (CITY AND EITHER STATE OR FOREIGN COUNTRY)		
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TITLE OF THE INVENTION (280 characters max)					
PHOTO FRAMES WITH MOUNTING MEMBERS					
CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS					
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ENCLOSED APPLICATION PARTS (check all that apply)					
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Specification - Number of Pages	3	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify)			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Drawings - Number of Sheets	25				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EFS Data Sheet	1				
METHOD OF PAYMENT					
Our check is enclosed to cover the Provisional Application filing fee. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional or missing fee to Deposit Account Number: 15-0700				PROVISIONAL APPLICATION FILING FEE AMOUNT (\$)	\$80.00
The invention was made by an agency of the United States Government or under a contract with an agency of the United States Government:					
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Respectfully submitted,

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Date December 19, 2003

Registration No. 30,173

☐ Additional Inventors are being named on separately numbered sheets and attached hereto.

EXPRESS MAIL CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as Express Mail Post Office to Addressee (EV343683296US) in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Provisional Patent Application, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on **December 19, 2003**:

Dorothy Jenkins

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Dorothy Jenkins

Signature

December 19, 2003

Date of Signature

PHOTO FRAMES WITH MOUNTING MEMBERS

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Field of the Invention

[0001] The invention relates to a frame or holder for photos or the like, having a mounting member for attaching the frame to another object.

Detailed Description of Embodiments of the Invention

[0002] Figure 1F shows a large candle, and mounted thereon, picture frames according to several embodiments of the invention. As is known, when a large candle burns, only the central portion of the candle is removed, leaving the outer portion of the candle still in place for permanently displaying the pictures in their frames.

[0003] Figures 1A-1E show a first embodiment of the invention. As best seen in Figure 1D, a frame has rear-facing members (four ears in this example) which securely enclose a transparent cover layer, a photograph, and a back plate. As best seen in Figure 1A, the back plate has at least a member or pin (here, a pair of pins to prevent rotation) for mounting the frame to another object. As an example, the pins may secure the frame to a candle, a bulletin board, a wooden object, or anything else that is penetrable by the pins. The non-rotatable feature is particularly advantageous if a charm or another object having weight is mounted on the frame. The frame may be decorated with any sort of decorative object or pattern.

[0004] As shown in Figures 1A-1E, the frame is flat. Alternatively, the frame and back plate may be given a shape to match an outer contour of an object to which it is to be attached. For example, it may be curved to match the outer surface of a cylindrical candle, or a bend may be formed to match the corner of a rectangular object, etc.

[0005] Figures 2A-2F show a second embodiment of the invention, which is similar to the first embodiment except for the frame being rectangular rather than circular. Of course, it can be made in any shape within the scope of the invention, besides circular or rectangular. This frame, like the first embodiment, may be flat, or shaped to match a non-flat mounting surface. As seen

in Figure 2E, if a flat frame is attached to a cylindrical candle, there will be spaces left between the frame and the candle, which increase toward the two ends in the circumferential direction. To fill such spaces, the frame may be formed with a depending bezel having edges that closely follow the surface shape of the candle. Analogously, a bezel may be formed to permit a frame to match a surface configuration of any mounting object, besides a cylindrical object. Figure 2F shows a decorative underlay for applying an interesting background surrounding the frame. The peripheral parts of the underlay project beyond the frame, which is mounted in the central portion of the underlay. The underlay has a pair of holes corresponding to the pair of mounting pins.

[0006] Figures 3A-3F show a third embodiment. As shown, the frame is generally rectangular and has a curved shape for matching a curved mounting object. Of course the frame may be flat or may have any other two- or three-dimensional shape. The frame is three-sided so that a photograph may be inserted laterally into the frame from its fourth side, between a transparent cover sheet and a back plate. As in the previous embodiments, the back plate has a pair of pins for mounting the frame on an object. The frame is advantageously crimped onto the back plate when manufactured, the frame and back plate being supplied to the user as a unit. V-shaped notches may be formed in the folded metal edges of the frame to prevent buckling when the frame is bent into its curved shape.

[0007] Figure 4 shows a fourth embodiment of the invention, comprising a cover plate with an opening for viewing a photograph, possibly protected by a transparent layer, and optionally with a backing layer as well. The cover plate has one or more holes for the receiving pins or the like for securing the cover plate to a mounting object.

[0008] Figures 5A-5D show a one-piece frame with integral mounting members (here, a pair of pointed mounting ears). A rectangular frame body has one part with an opening for showing a photo and a second part which is folded over the first part to form a backing plate for the photo. A pair of pointed ears extending rearward from the first part have two functions. First, the ears close the sides of the frame. (One or more additional ears can be provided, for example to close the top of the frame as well.) Second, the ears project rearward past the second frame part for being forced into a mounting object. The frame is preferably folded in the manufacturing process to neatly align the first and second parts of the frame. The frame may, however, be supplied to

the user unfolded, and/or with the ears coplanar with the first frame part, for both safety and easier packaging.

[0009] Figures 6A-6B show a sixth embodiment. A pair of first prongs are provided on one side of the first frame part (which contains the display window). Additional first prongs may be provided on other sides of the first part. These first prongs are bendable to project rearward for both closing the side or sides of the frame and for engaging the mounting object, as in the fifth embodiment. Fewer or more prongs may be provided. The first prongs may be used solely to close the frame if desired. A pair of second prongs is formed by cutouts in the second frame part and, again, project rearward for engaging a mounting surface.

[0010] Figures 7-9 show additional aspects and embodiments of the invention.

[0011] Although the present invention has been described in relation to particular embodiments thereof, many other variations and modifications and other uses will become apparent to those skilled in the art. For example, the features in the various embodiments can be freely exchanged or substituted for one another within the scope of the invention. Any of the embodiments may be included in a kit with a die or cutter adapted for cutting a photograph to fit the frame. Any embodiment may be curved or folded three-dimensionally to match the outer shape of a mounting object. The present invention is not limited by the specific disclosure herein.

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with + without
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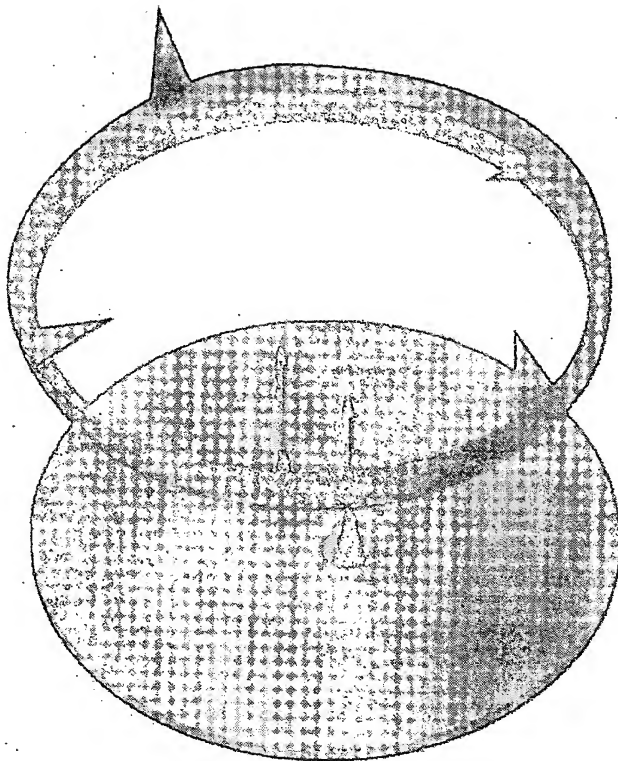


Fig. 1A

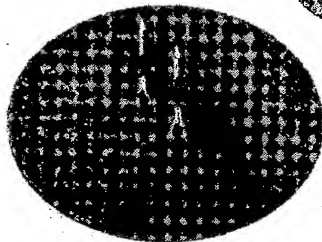
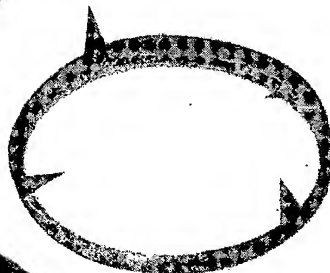
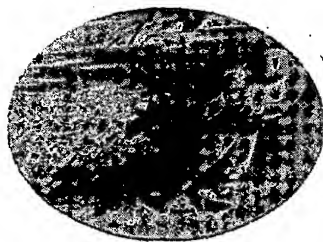
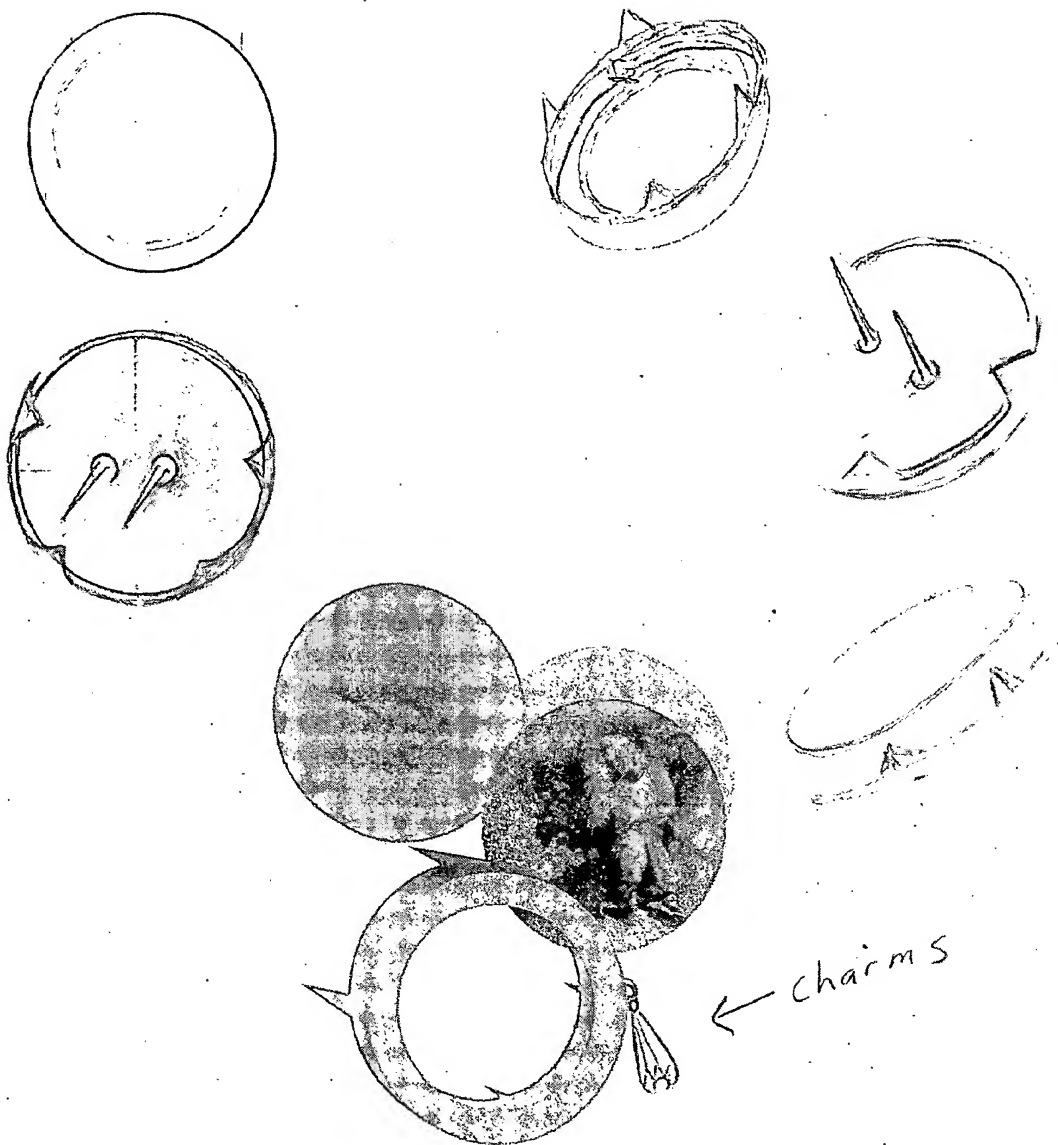


Fig. 1B



← charms

FIG. 1C

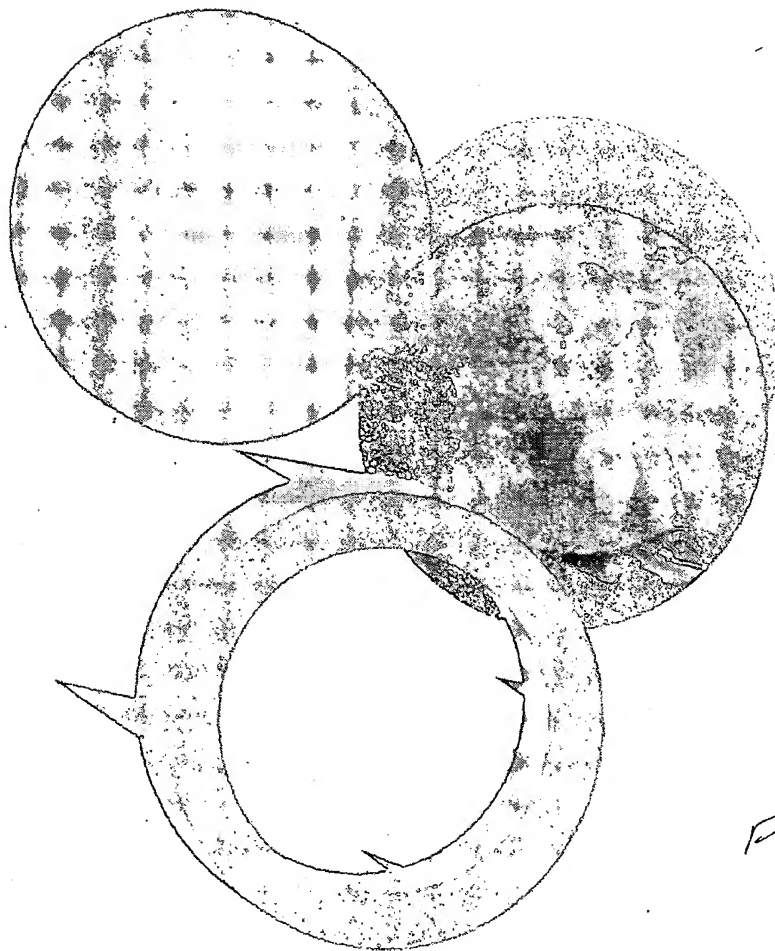


FIG. 1D

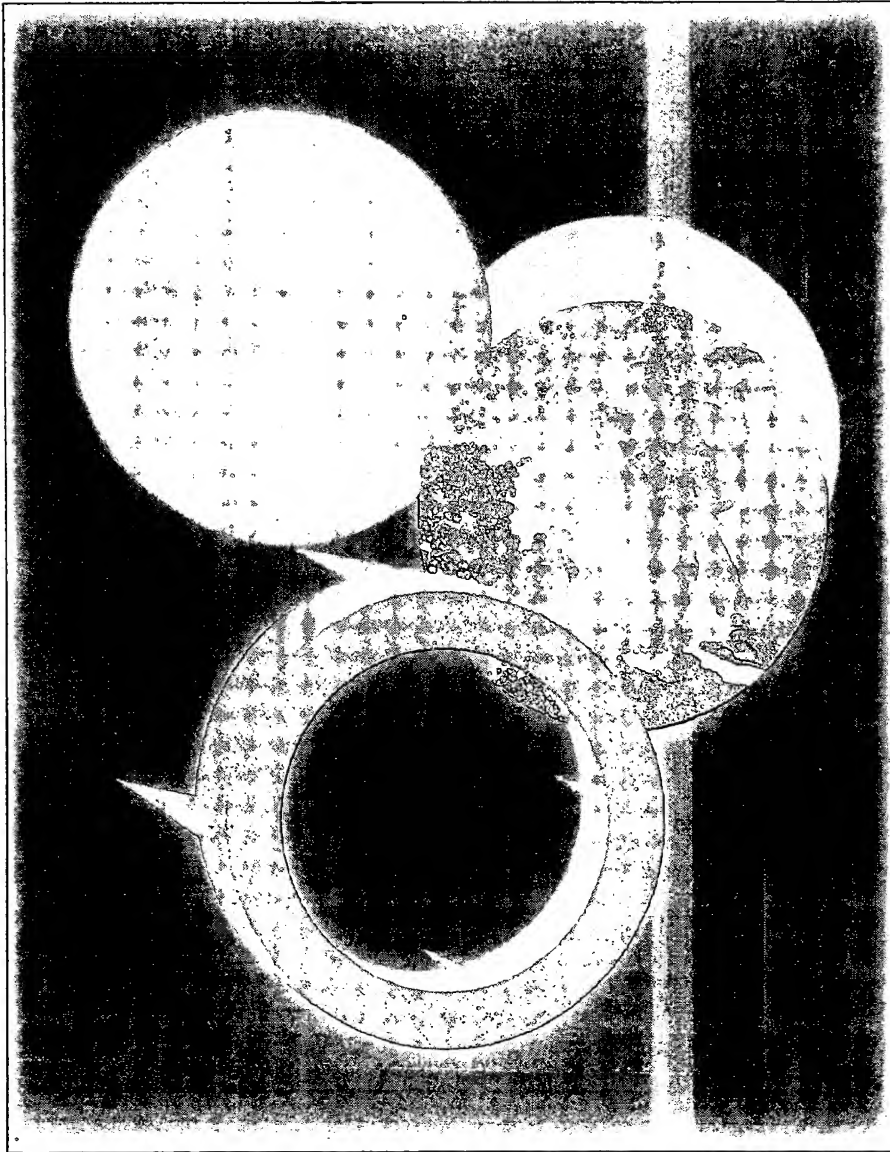


FIG. 1E



FIG. 1F

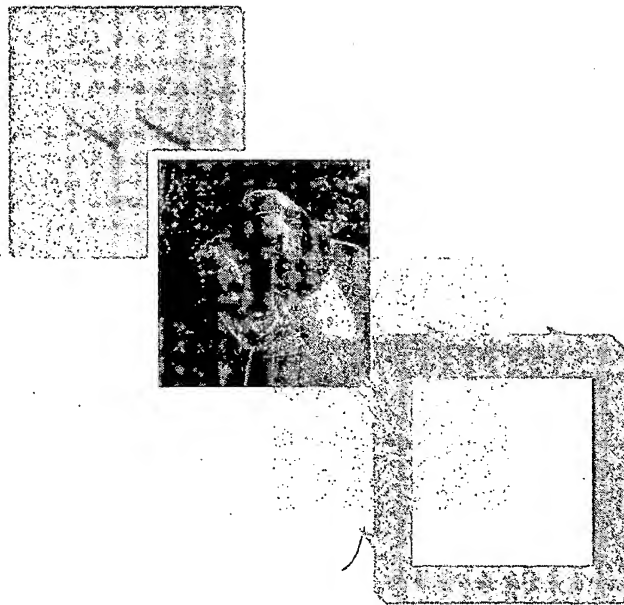
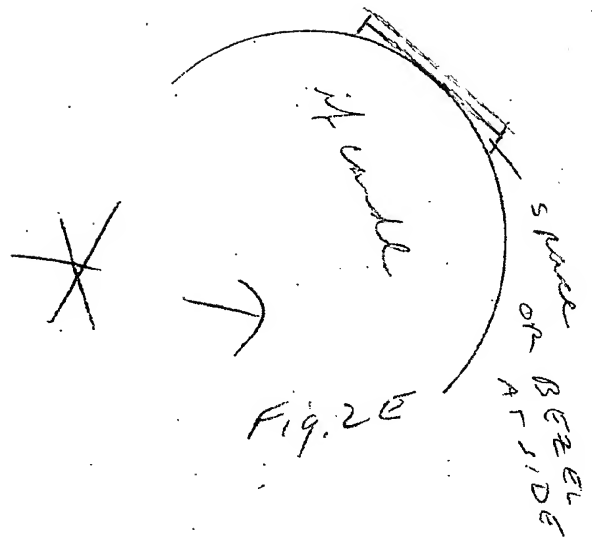
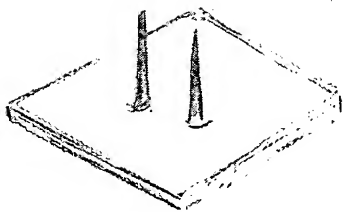


FIG 2A



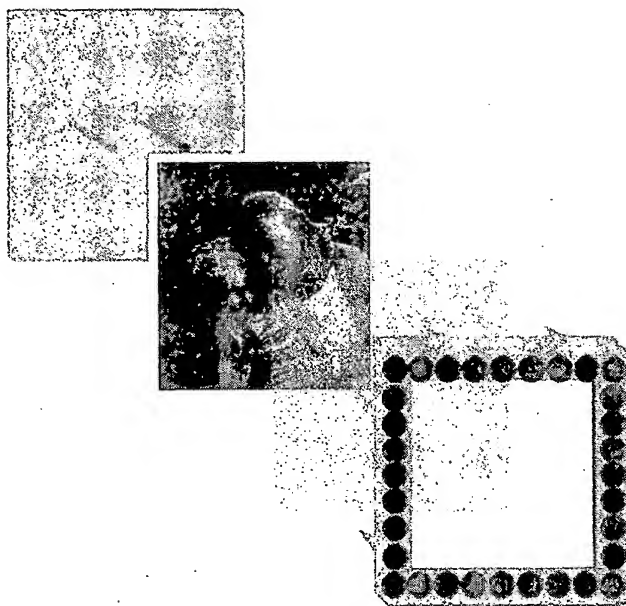


Fig. 2B

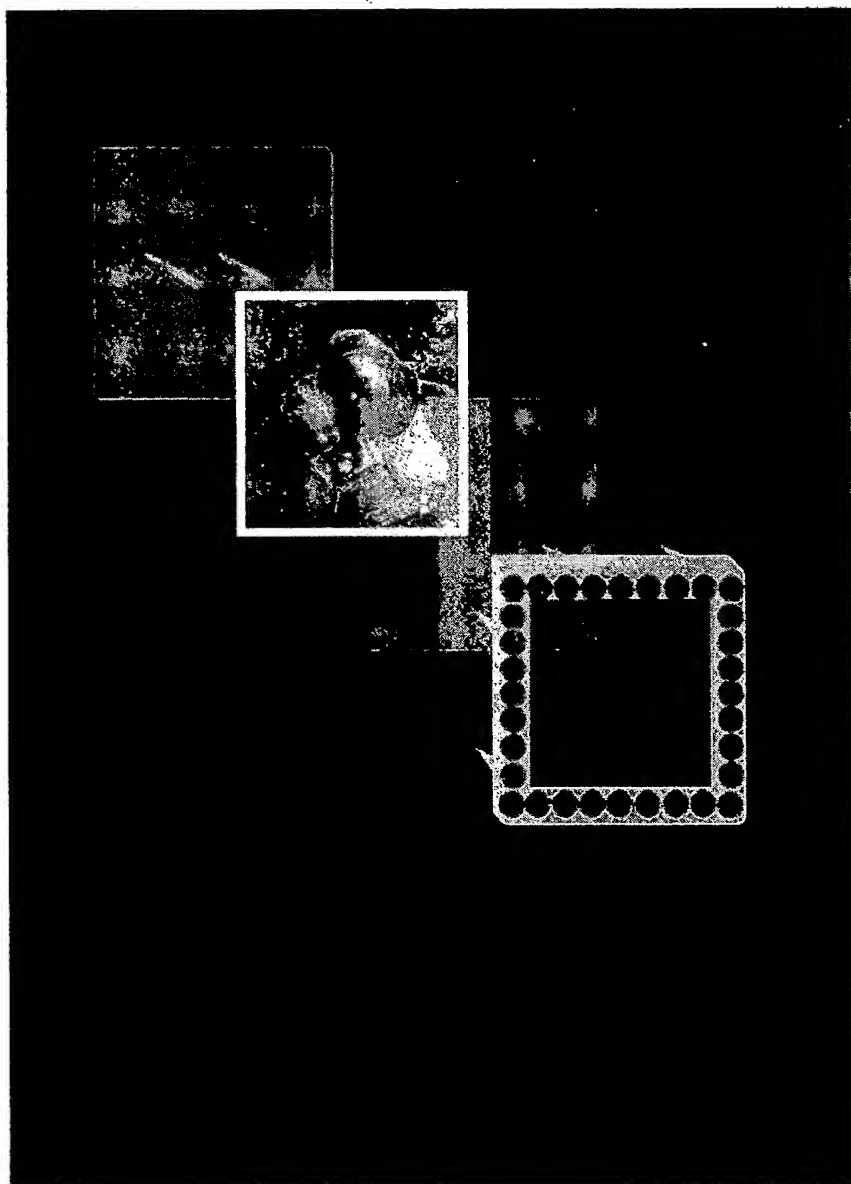


Fig. 2C

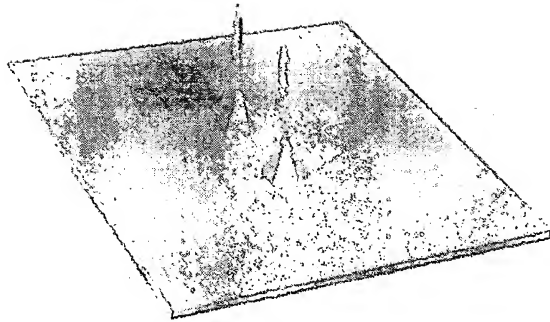


Fig. 20

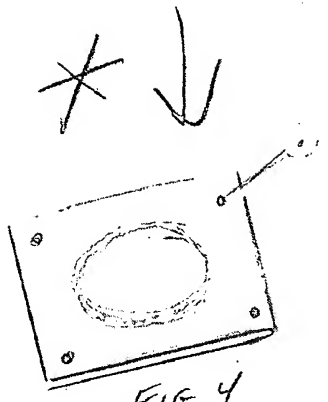
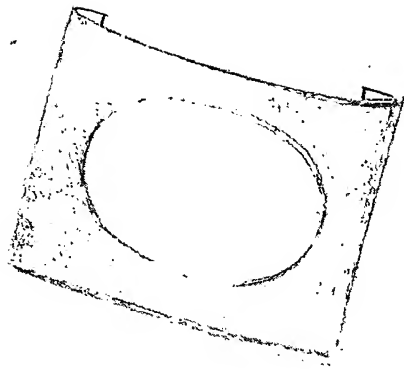
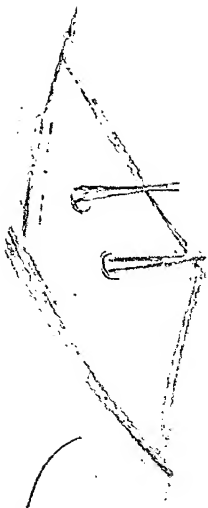
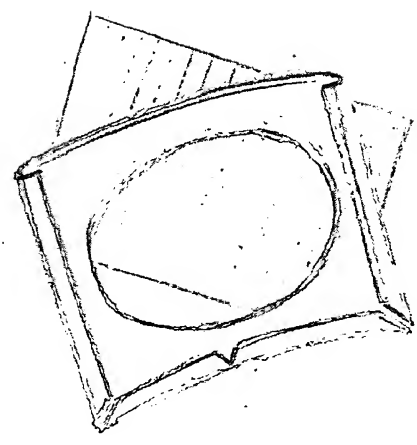
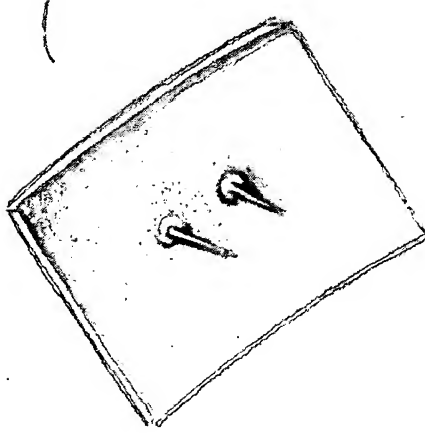
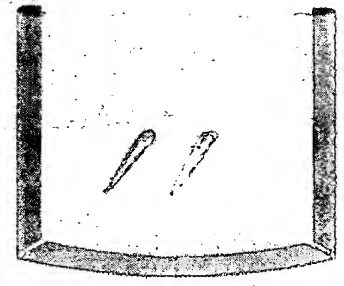
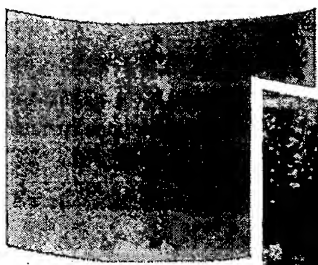


FIG. 4

Fig. 3A



SLIDE FRAME
TAK
* curved

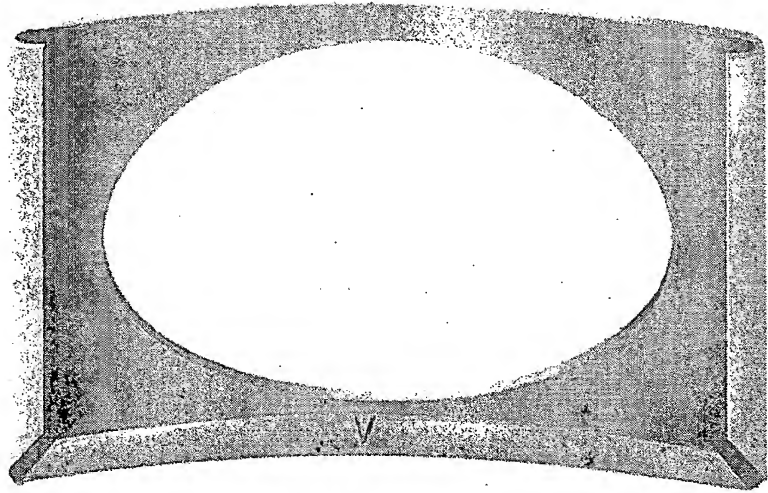


Fig. 3B

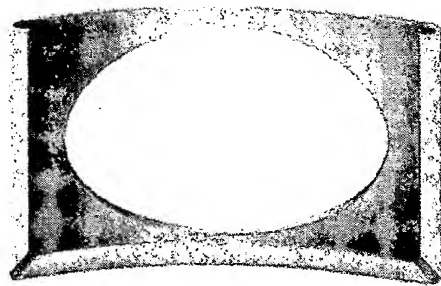


Fig. 3C

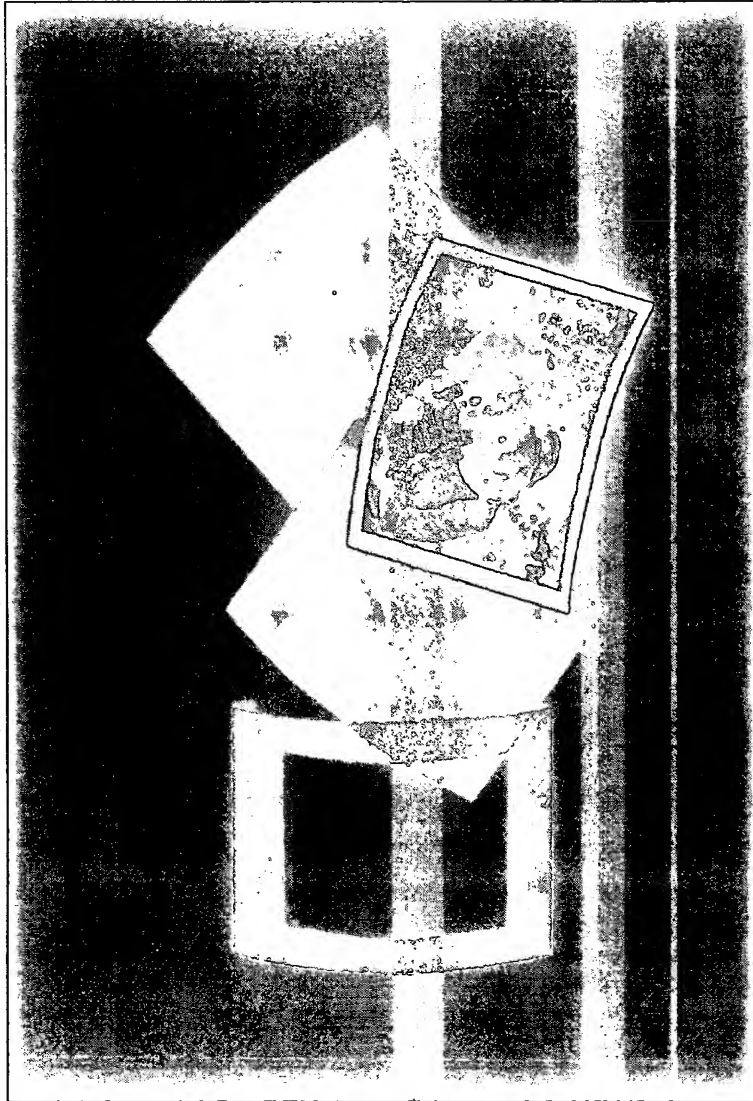


Fig. 3D

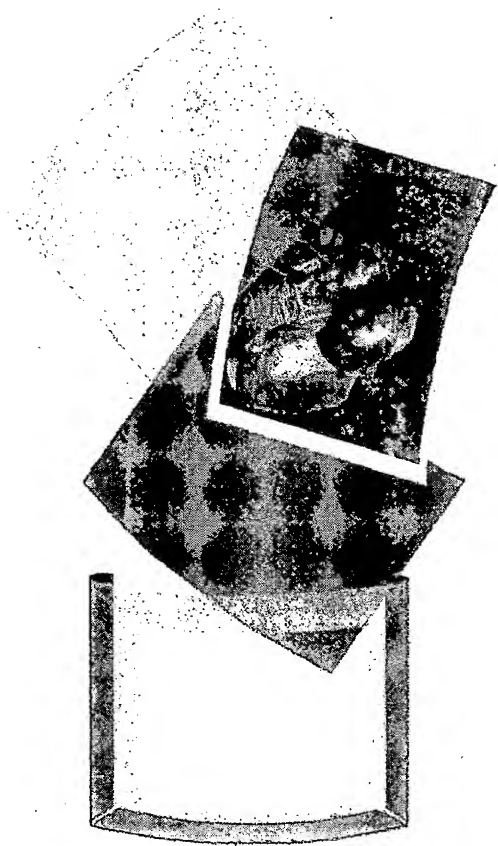
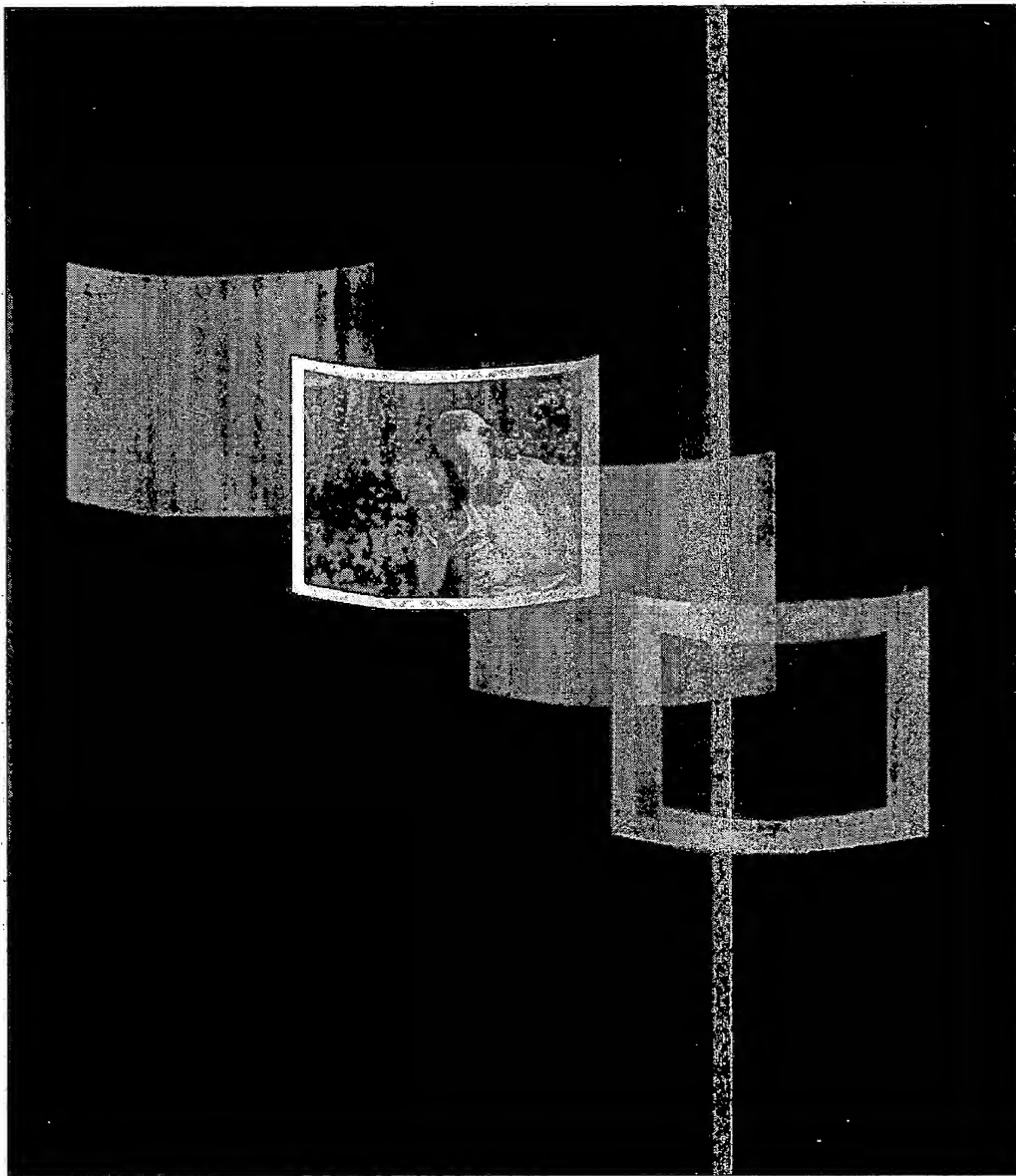


Fig. 3E



SQU

~~Rectangle~~

Slide Frame

TACK
Tab
~~Felt~~

Fig. 3F

FOLD FRAME
TAK

with + without
curve

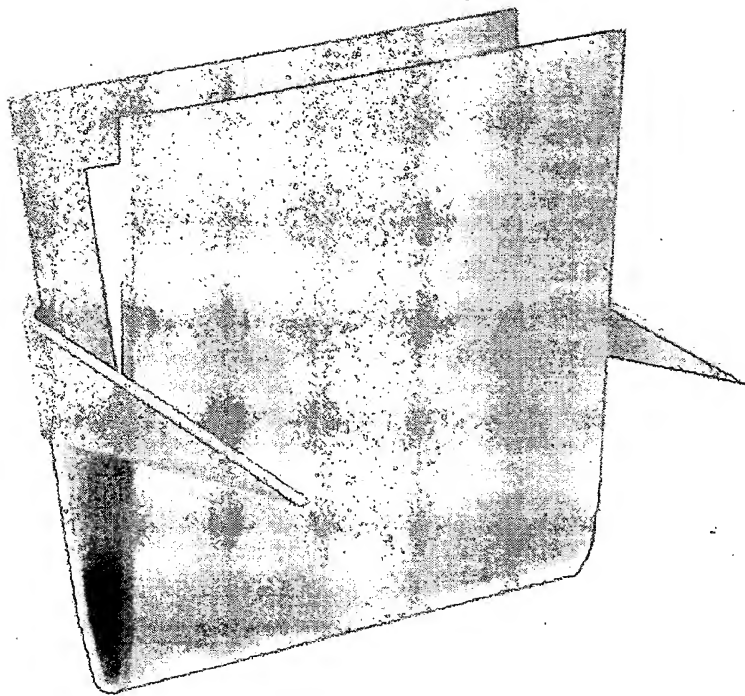
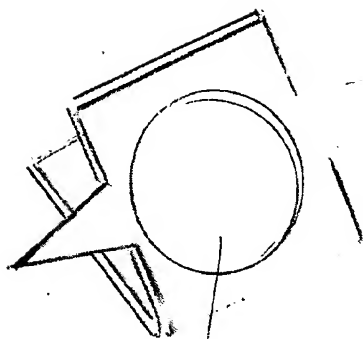
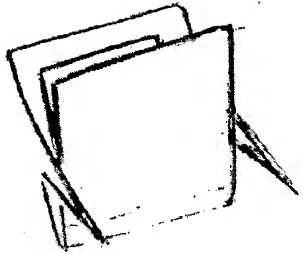


Fig. 5A -



Any shape



TRANSPARENT
FILM

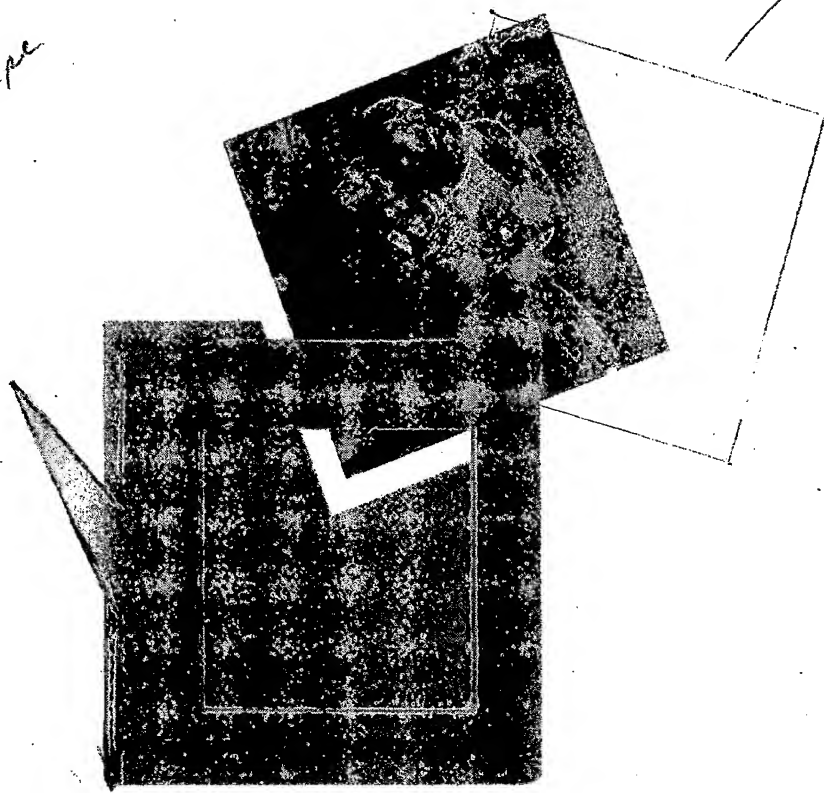


Fig. 5B

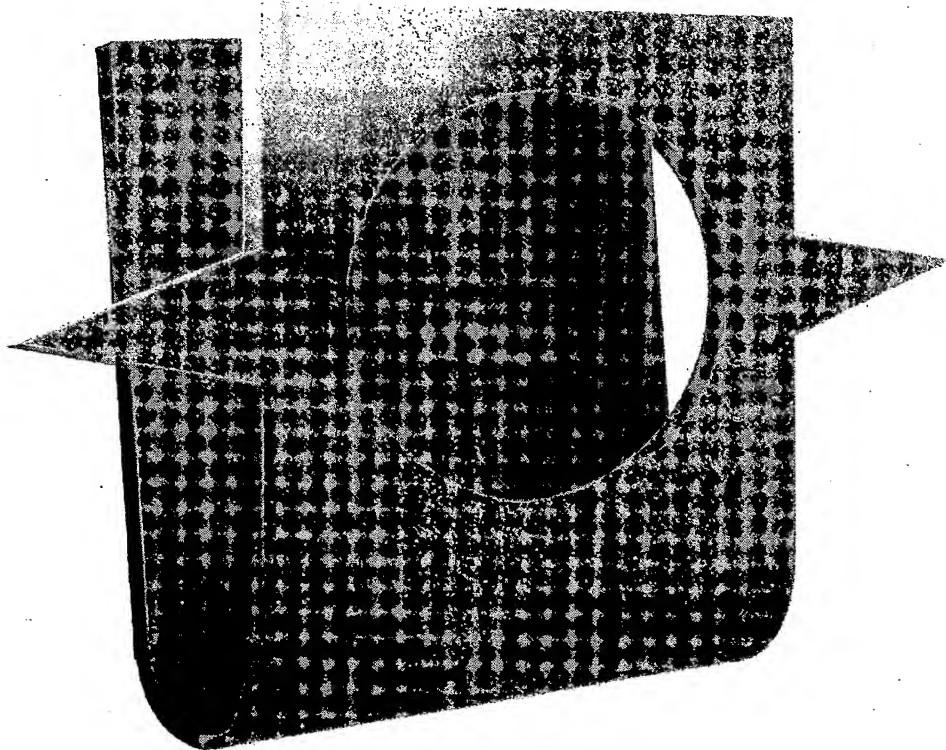


Fig. 5c

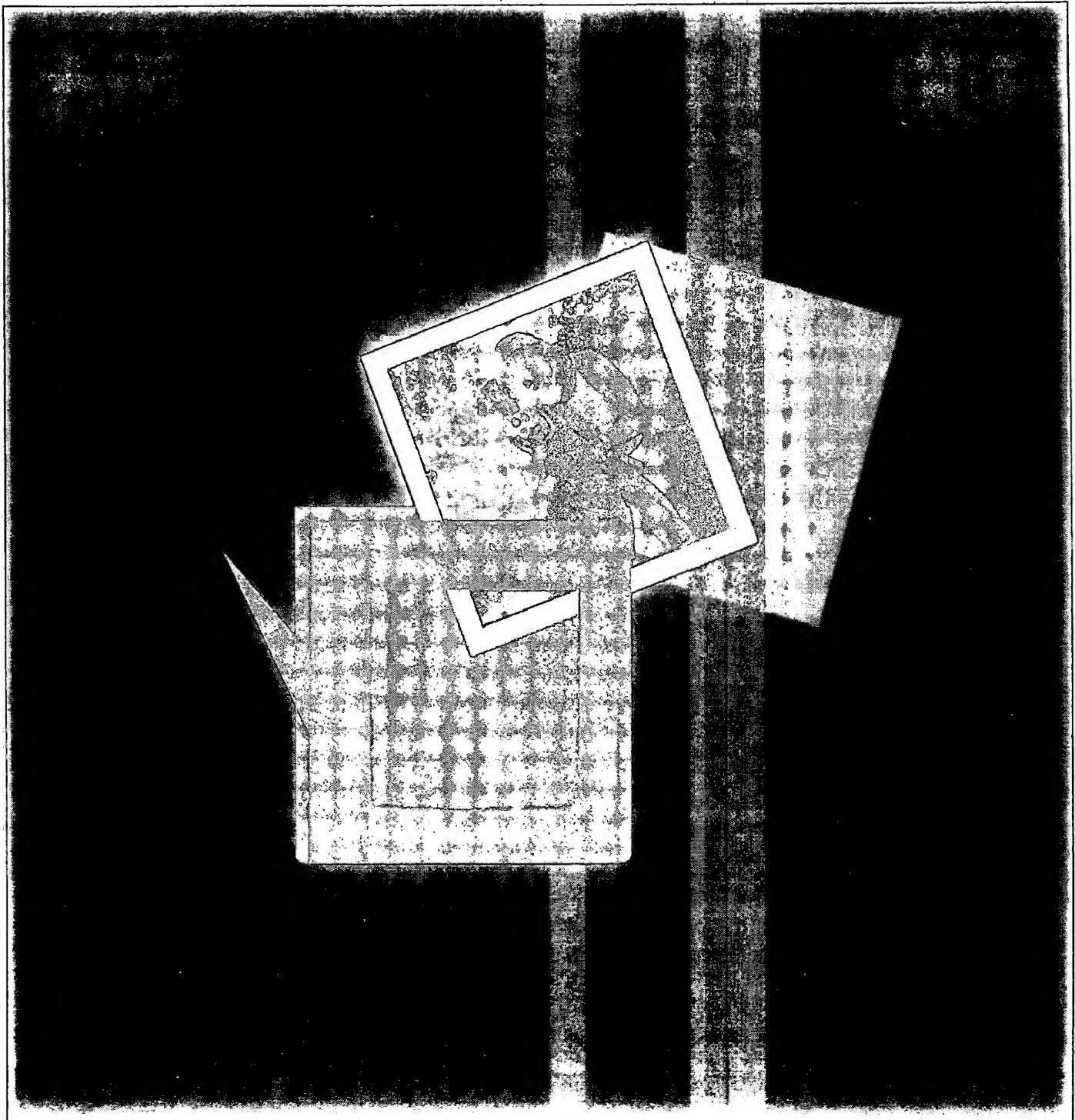


Fig. 5D

FOLD
FRAM
TAK

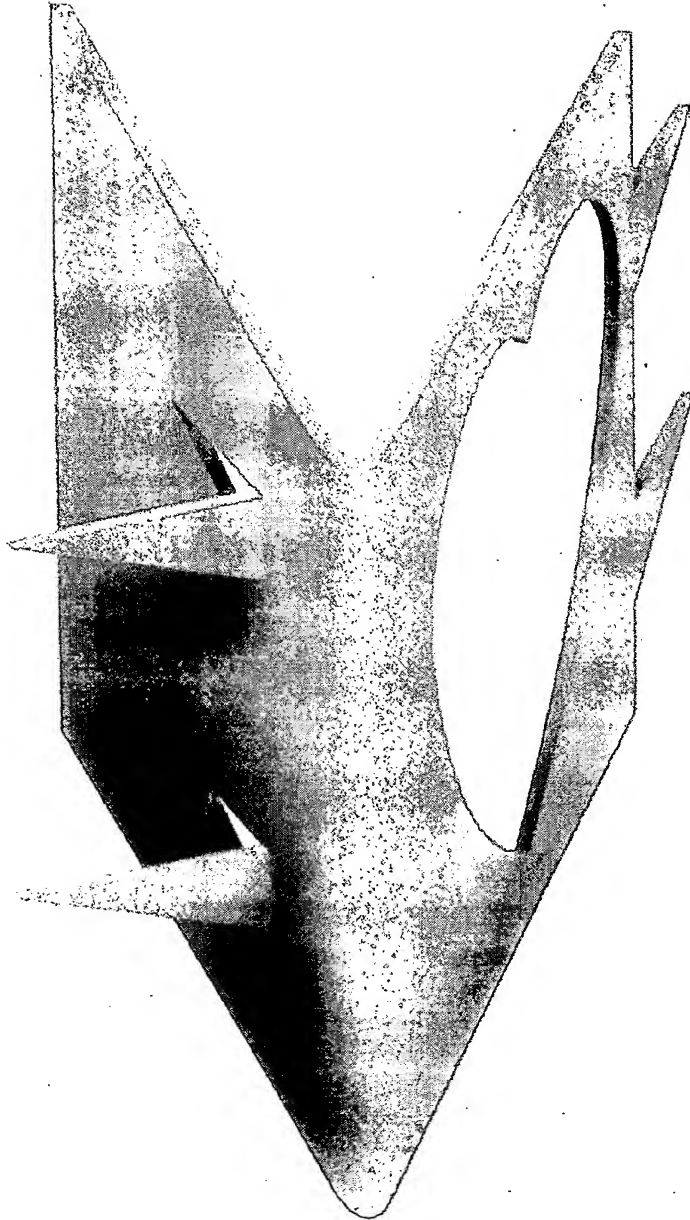


Fig. 6A

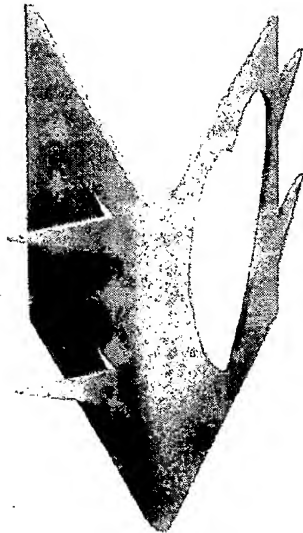


Fig. 6B

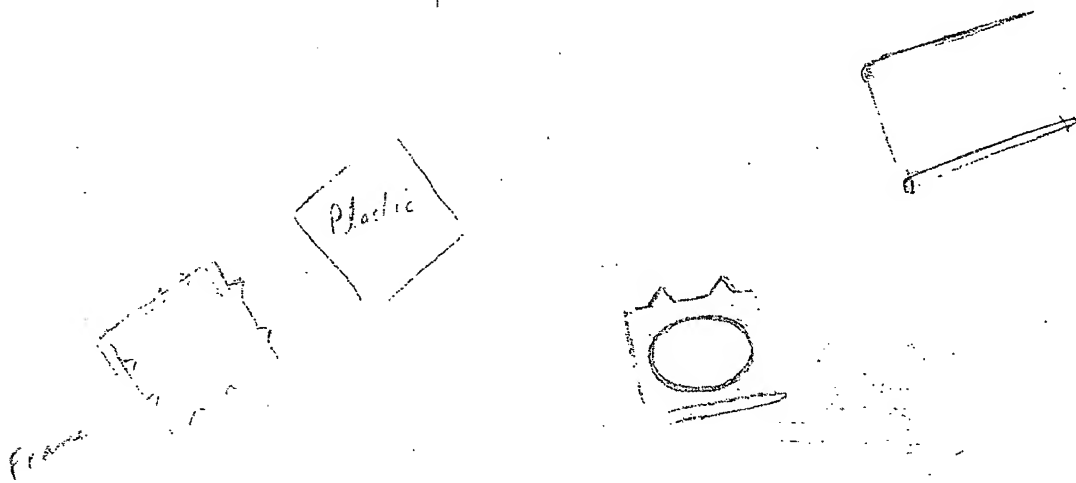
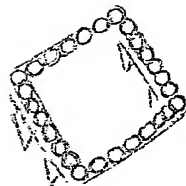
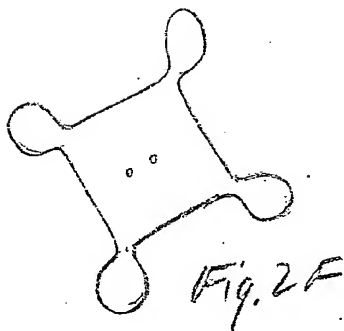


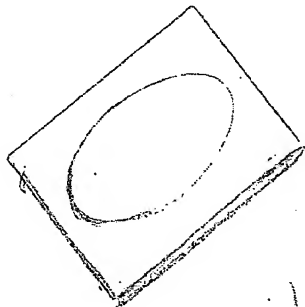
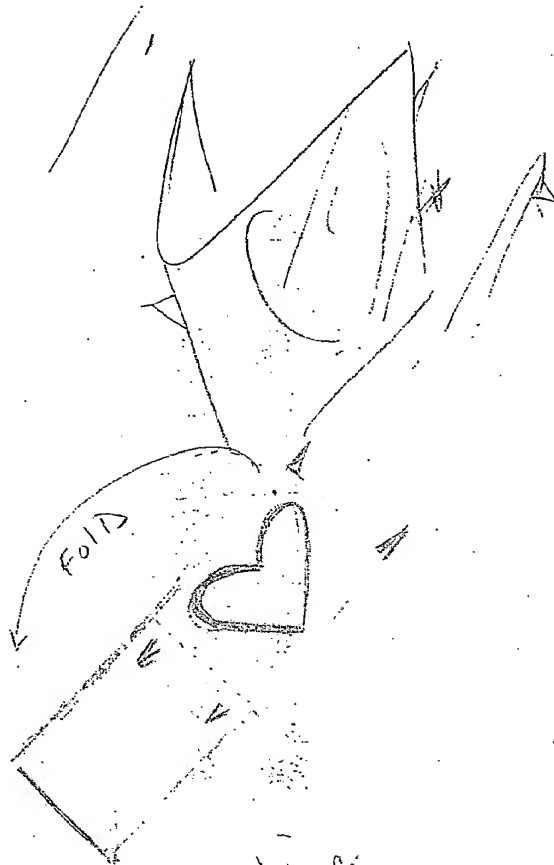
Fig. 7



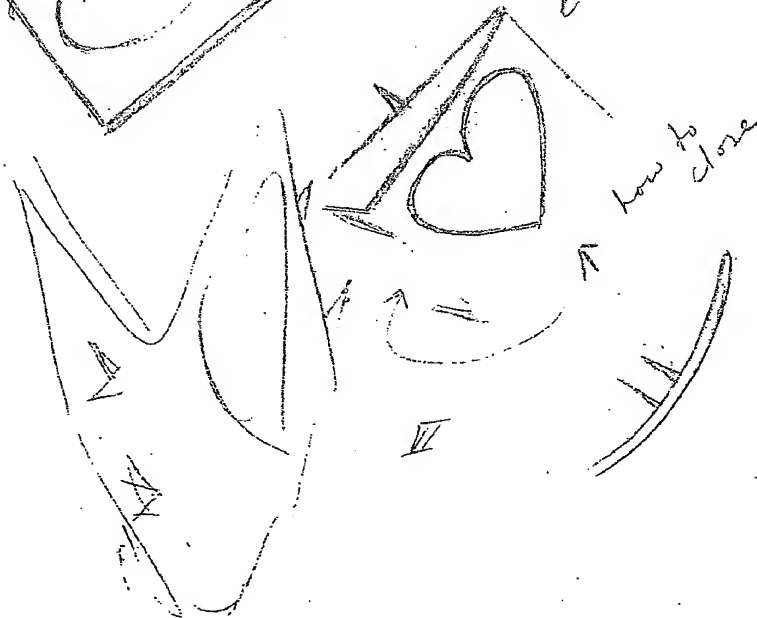
- ① Kits for canvas + cork boards
TREES
POCS
- ② Individual pre decorated frames



Fig. 8



with
curve
+ no
curve



For Fit

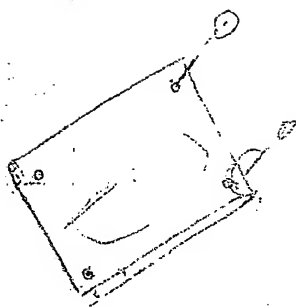
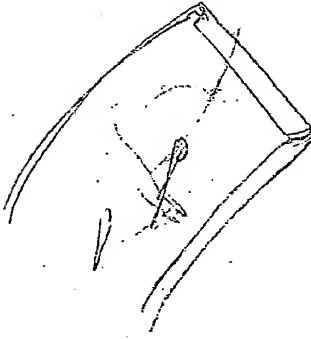
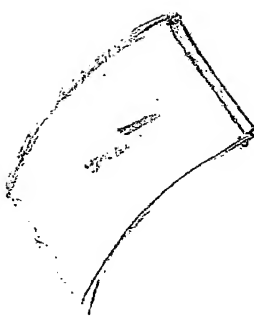
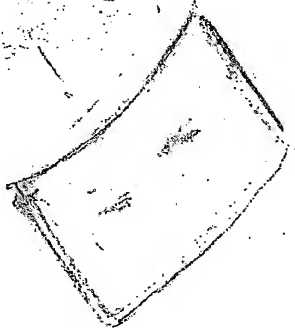
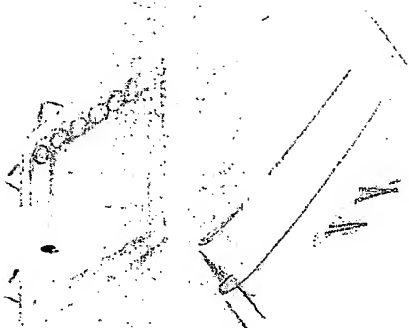
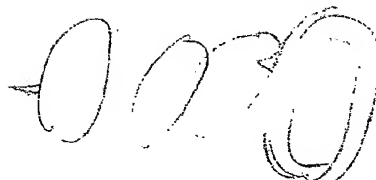


Fig. 9



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APPLICATION INFORMATION

Title Line One:: PHOTO FRAMES WITH MOUNTING MEMBERS
Total Drawing Sheets:: 25
Formal Drawings?: Yes
Docket Number:: PP/4497-2
Secrecy Order in Parent Appl.?: No

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